Saskatchewan
Agriculture
and Food

Stove Creek
Land Use Plan

Stove Creek
Land Use Plan

Table of Contents

Introduction
Letter of Transmittal 4
Acknowledgements 6
Plan Summary 7

Chapters
Section 1: Background 9
Section 2: Resource Inventory and Analysis 13
Section 3: Existing Development and Land/Water Use Activities 24
Section 4: Issues and Interests 26
Section 5: Objectives, Strategies and Management Policies 28
Section 6: Land Use Management Areas 32
Section 7: Implementation 34
Section 8: Plan Monitoring and Review 36
Section 9: Glossary 37

Appendices
Appendix A: Mineral Exploration Process 39
Appendix B: *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* — Background and Permitted Activities and Dispositions 41
Appendix C: The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) 43
Appendix D: Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation Authorization for Alternative Uses 44

Map 47
Stove Creek Land Use Plan Area (General)

Letter of Transmittal

November 1, 2006

The Honourable Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food

The Honourable John T. Nilson, Q.C.
Minister of Environment

Dear Ministers:

We respectfully submit the Stove Creek Land Use Plan.

The Stove Creek Planning and Advisory Committee was established to develop a management plan for Crown land in the Stove Creek area. The Committee included a number of local stakeholders and representatives of provincial and municipal governments.

This plan identifies land use management recommendations and provides guidance for decision making by the provincial government. A series of public meetings provided residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input into this plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to have participated in developing the Stove Creek Land Use Plan. We look forward to having the plan implemented.

Yours sincerely,

The Stove Creek Planning and Advisory Committee
(Signatures are on the following page)

Tim Feist (Co-Chair)
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

Conrad Olson (Co-Chair)
Saskatchewan Environment

John Daisley/Jose Menezes
Weyerhaeuser

Bob Selby
Lintlaw Bush Bandits (Snowmobilers)

Dwight Greba
Outfitters / Landowners

Don Newcombe
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

David Knihniski
Saskatchewan Environment

Joyce Lorenz
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

Albert Murrison
Trappers

Gordon Murrison
Landowners

Dora Schutte
Crown Lessees

Bruce Steppan
RM Hazel Dell No. 335

Alison Tokarchuk
Landowners, Hazel Bloom Cemetery

J. A. Brian Mathieson
Saskatchewan Industry and Resources

Denis Mevel
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

James Hendron
Independent Loggers

Kevin Karmark
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Leonard Pasanipiness
Yellow Quill First Nation

Gordon Bue
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

Edward H. Kowal
Saskatchewan Environment

Acknowledgements

The Stove Creek Planning Committee acknowledges the assistance and participation of the Stove Creek Advisory Committee in providing local input into the plan.

Stakeholders participated in meetings and provided background information in developing the plan.

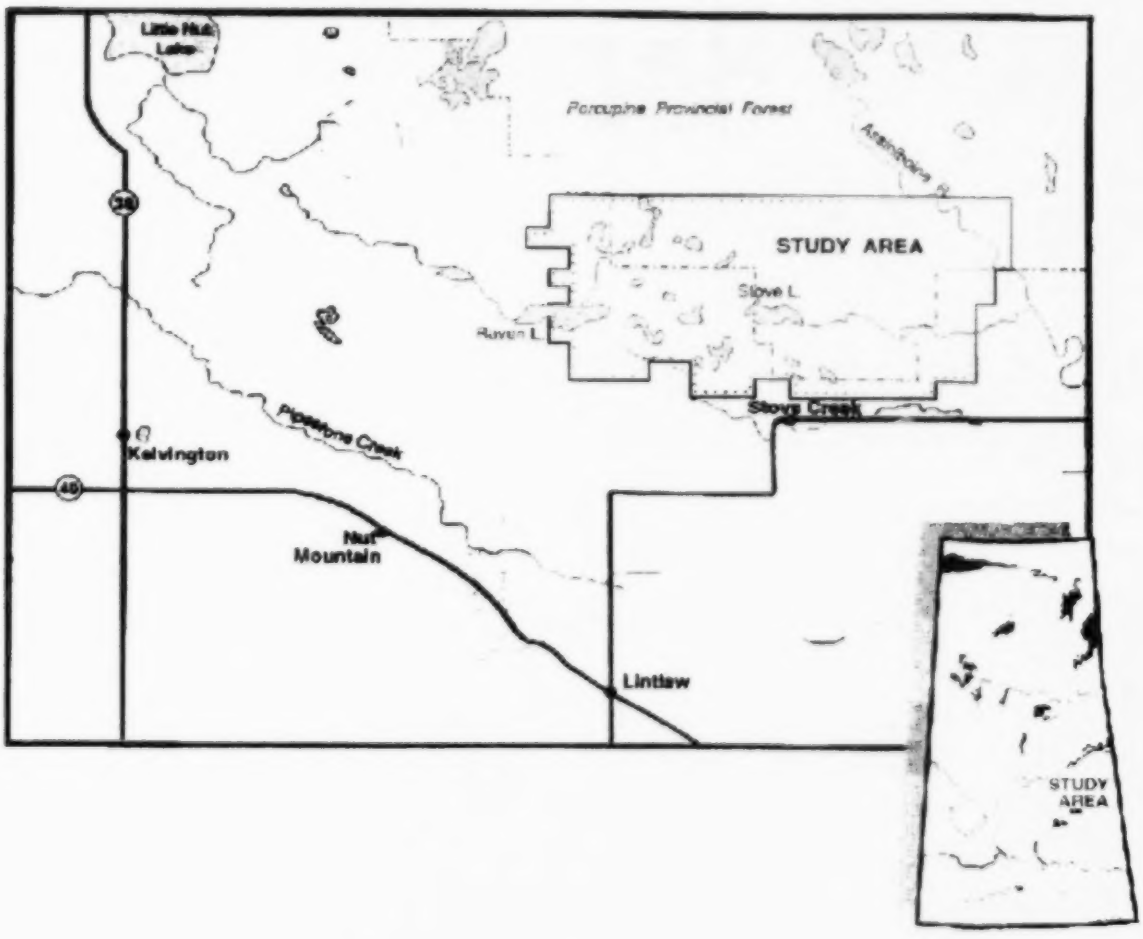
Plan Summary

The Stove Creek Planning Area is entirely within the Rural Municipality of Hazel Dell No. 335 and comprised of the following lands:

Land Tenure	Quarters	Acres	% Area
Provincial Forest (SE)	128	20,480	57%
*Agricultural Crown (SAF)	48	7,680	21%
**FWDF Crown (SE)	34	5,440	15%
Resource Crown (SE)	2	320	1%
Private	12	2,000	6%
Totals	**224**	**35,920**	

***Agricultural Crown Land**: All the Agricultural Crown lands are protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* (An Act respecting the Protection and Management of Crown Lands for Agriculture and Wildlife) – see background information in Appendix at the back of this document.

****FWDF**: Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (This fund is supported by hunters, anglers and trappers through a portion of their license fees. The Fund is used to secure and enhance fish and wildlife habitat throughout Saskatchewan). For details, see the Appendix at the back of this document.



The interest in land use planning for the Stove Creek area was first recognized in 1979 when a co-operative report was developed between the Departments of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Saskatchewan Tourism and Renewable Resources. This technical report was called *Multiple Land Use Planning for the Stove Creek Study Block*.

The report made several recommendations focused on the following statement: "land administrative exchanges and/or conditions be employed to bring about optimal mix of land use in the Stove Creek Study Block between agriculture, forestry, wildlife and recreation."

A more recent interest in the Stove Creek Area involved Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), which is a private non-profit conservation organization promoting elk and other wildlife.

The mutual interest of these two organizations related to assessing and improving the Stove Creek area for elk and other wildlife. As a result, the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) was commissioned to do an inventory and develop recommendations for wildlife habitat management. The SRC report, produced in 1996, was entitled *Wildlife Habitat Management in the Stove Creek Area*. The report suggested sustainable forest harvesting as the main recommendation for habitat improvement in this area, along with some consideration on prescribed burning; native grass establishment in small clearings; control of exotic plant species; and, limiting additional snowmobile trails through the area.

A joint meeting between Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food and Saskatchewan Environment was held in April 2000 to discuss other existing and potential uses and the need for a land use plan for the Stove Creek Area. As a result of this meeting, several stakeholders were identified, along with issues and concerns and management objectives.

A public meeting was then held in Lintlaw on June 14, 2000. At that meeting, it was agreed that a land use planning process would be initiated and an Advisory Committee was struck. Since the initial public meeting, there has been an additional 19 planning meetings.

The Stove Creek Land Use Plan describes objectives, strategies and management policies that apply to Crown lands within the planning area. The Committee also agreed on three separate zoning designations.

The Archaeological Protection Area (APA) is intended to give the highest level of land use restriction on historic sites such as schools, churches, cemeteries, burial sites, sacred sites, and gathering sites within the area.

A Resource Protection Area (RPA) is designed to maintain land* in its natural state for public use. Developments and land use activities involving surface disturbance would be highly regulated or not permitted. A higher number of allowable land uses apply to this area as compared with the APA.

The Resource Stewardship Area (RSA) is intended to conserve lands with important wildlife habitat and maintain land in its natural state. Furthermore, this area is to provide for the sustainable management and integrated land use and support the continuation of traditional land uses and activities, as well as new ventures that are environmentally acceptable. Lands within the RSA accommodate the highest number of allowable uses.

Section 1.0
Background

1.1
Introduction

(from the Saskatchewan Research Council report, 1996)

Almost all of this Crown land, regardless of administrative status, is covered with natural forest and wetland, except for small areas of cultivation or tame forage associated with the inclusions of private land. To the south lies mainly private land used for agriculture, as well as the Hazel Dell Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Pasture, a large block of federal Crown Land used for grazing. However, land in many parts of the study area was settled during the drought of the 1930s. This is illustrated on the landscape by the scattered remains of buildings and small cleared fields. In the central part of the Stove Creek study area, a sign has been erected to commemorate a school division, Hazel Bloom School, which opened in the 1930s and closed in the early 1950s. Apparently, settlement in this area was short-lived.

Most of the study area is an undulating till plain, on which Waitville soils (gray luvisols on medium to moderately fine textured glacial till) have developed (Stonehouse and Ellis 1983). In depressions, organic soils are also important. In the eastern part of the study area, along Stove Creek and the Assiniboine River, there are also Glenbush soils (dark gray chernozems on gravelly glacio-fluvial deposits).

Hunt (cited by Beaulieu and O'Bertos 1979) considered this area to be the best elk habitat in the southwestern part of the Porcupine Hills. Johnson and Weichel (1979) inventoried the vegetation on Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) lands in this area, and proposed small-scale management actions, such as cutting, to create feeding patches and seeding of forage crops.

1.2
Legislative Authority

The table on the next page outlines the legislation that is applicable to lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area and the respective administrative authorities.

Legislation	Purpose	Administrative Authority
The Crown Minerals Act	Administration of Crown minerals – applicable to most lands	SIR
The Environmental Management and Protection Act	Environmental protection – applicable to all lands	SE
The Forest Resources Management Act	Forest management and protection – applicable to all forested Crown lands	SE
The Highways and Transportation Act	Administer highways, roads and road allowances – applicable to undeveloped road allowances	SHT
The Prairie and Forest Fires Act	Landscape/property protection – applicable to all Crown lands and those lands adjacent to Crown lands	SE
The Provincial Lands Act	Administration of Crown lands – applicable to Crown lands outside the Provincial Forest	SAF/SE
The Natural Resources Act	SE's administrative authority – includes FWDF	SE
The Municipalities Act	Municipal administration – applicable to all lands within the municipality	GR
The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act	Administration of water resources – applicable to all lands	SWA
The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act	Protection of Crown lands for agriculture and wildlife – applicable to designated Crown lands	SE
The Mineral Resources Act	For the development, conservation and management of mineral resources	SIR
The Oil and Gas Conservation Act	To regulate all operations for production of oil and gas	SIR

Legend

GR	Government Relations
SAF	Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
SIR	Saskatchewan Industry and Resources
SE	Saskatchewan Environment
SHT	Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation
SWA	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

1.3
Plan Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Stove Creek Land Use Planning process was to solicit input from stakeholders and local residents in an effort to develop a guide or plan for the sustainable management of Crown lands under the administration of SE and SAF.

The Plan focuses on three elements of land use planning, which include: issues, objectives, and recommended policies or strategies. These elements are further described as follows:

a) Issues – are concerns related to land use that require some resolution, preferably by consensus, and are addressed through the formulation of management policies and future actions. The public makes the concerns known, and these concerns are subsequently identified as issues by the Planning and Advisory Committee.

b) Objectives – are statements of what the Planning and Advisory Committee would like to see achieved or a desired result of long-term Crown land management. The objectives address the issues.

c) Recommended Policies – are detailed statements of how the Planning and Advisory Committee intends the objectives to be achieved. These policies will determine what activities are permitted within each of the designated land use management areas. Activities will also be determined by provincial legislation and policy.

1.4
Planning Area

The Stove Creek Planning Area is located in the R.M. of Hazel Dell #335 in east-central Saskatchewan. It includes a portion of the Porcupine Provincial Forest, and covers approximately 36,000 acres (14,400 hectares), most of which is Crown administered land (94%). Although the Stove Creek Planning Area includes approximately 2,000 acres of privately owned lands, **clearly the recommendations of this plan do not apply to these private lands.**

The Pasquia/Porcupine Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, which is a land use plan that was finalized in 1999, applies to that portion of the Porcupine Provincial Forest that is also included in this planning area, and therefore the recommendations of this plan only apply to the area of Crown administered lands outside the Porcupine Provincial Forest.

1.5
Process for Development of the Land Use Plan

The following steps summarize the process used to develop and implement the Stove Creek Land Use Plan:

a) Identification of Issues and Concerns – a public meeting was held on June 14th, 2000, in Lintlaw to share information on the Stove Creek area and determine the issues and public interest in developing a land use plan for the area. Highlights of the Saskatchewan Research Council's report, "Wildlife Habitat Management in the Stove Creek Area," were presented, along with a brief outline of the recreation, resource and agricultural attributes of the area. At this public meeting, an Advisory Committee was established comprised of representatives from the identified stakeholder groups.

b) Data Collection and Analysis – information was collected by government agencies and other

stakeholder groups and presented to the committee. Most of the vegetation inventory within the planning area was derived from the SRC Report. This information is also incorporated into the plan.

c) Formulation of Plan Recommendations, Policies and Designation of Management Areas – the Planning and Advisory Committee discussed various issues and, in most circumstances, achieved consensus on recommended policies. At the end of this process, the three zoning designations were developed.

d) Implementation, Acceptance and Endorsement – the Planning and Advisory Committee provided recommendations for the implementation of the Plan. A formal endorsement of the Plan by the government departments will ensure the use of these Crown lands is consistent with the Committee recommendations.

e) Review and Monitoring – the Plan will be revisited at regular intervals to consider new issues or interests. Any change will involve the Committee, the public and government departments along with new or emerging interests.

Section 2.0
Resource Inventory and Analysis

There are a number of historic, cultural and natural resources within the Stove Creek Planning Area that are important in maintaining historic, cultural, recreational, economic, agricultural and wildlife integrity. This section provides a brief summary of those interests that have been identified.

2.1
Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage sites, such as ancient aboriginal campsites, burial sites, gathering sites and ceremonial sites, as well as more recent cemeteries and burial sites relating to settlement, are an important part of history and must be identified and preserved.

The Hazel Bloom Cemetery is well defined within the Planning Area along with a local gravesite associated with an old homestead. It is also logical to suggest there are many other heritage sites that have not been identified. The members of the Yellow Quill First Nation have expressed their interest in defining these areas and providing long term protection. However, until these sites are determined, it is very difficult to provide protection.

2.2
Forest and Vegetation

A significant portion (63%) of the planning area is covered with forest. The Saskatchewan Research Council's 1996 report, *Wildlife Habitat Management in the Stove Creek Area*, provides the most current forest inventory of the area. The inventory is described within charts on the next two pages.

Stove Creek Study Area Forest Inventory (SRC 1996)

Stand Type	Area	Height m	Volume/ha (m3)	Approx. Age	Estimated Volume
Treed Muskeg	1,292 ac/523 ha	12	7	30	3,661
Black Spruce	892 ac/363 ha	13	66	80	23,826
H10, 15 C, D	8,814 ac/3,567 ha	14	68	40	242,556
H20 B	398 ac/161 ha	22	66	40	10,626
H20 C, D	7,228 ac/2,925 ha	20	140	70	409,500
H25 B	667 ac/270 ha	20	86	100	23,200
H25 C, D	2,768 ac/1,120 ha	24	165	100	184,800
HS20, 25 C, D	1,908 ac/772 ha	25	211	100	162,892
SH 20, 25 C, D	460 ac/186 ha	27	360	100	66,960
Totals	**24,427 ac/9,885 ha**				**1,128,041**

Species association

H	>75% hardwood
HS	50-75% hardwood
SH	50-75% softwood
S	>75% softwood

Height

5, 10, 15, 20, 25 – height in metres, rounded to nearest 5 m

Crown closure

A	10-30%
B	30-55%
C	55-80%
D	>80%

Species

tA	trembling aspen
bPo	balsam poplar
wS	white spruce
bS	black spruce
tL	tamarack

Area composition

- water	4,384 ac./1,774 ha	12%
- forest	23,131 ac./9,361 ha	63%
- non-forested	9,274 ac./3,753 ha	25%
- total area	36,788 ac./14,888 ha	

Vegetation Type within the Stove Creek Planning Area (SRC 1996)

Vegetation Type	Percent of Area
Immature hardwood forest (approx. 40 years old)	27
Mature hardwood forest (approx. 70 years old)	23
Old hardwood forest (approx. 100 years old)	11
Mature to old mixed wood forest (poplar and white spruce)	7
Black spruce forest	3
Treed muskeg	4
Shrub wetland	12
Herb wetland	10
Grassland	1
Clearings	2

2.3 Agricultural Land

The lands outside the Provincial Forest within the Stove Creek Planning Area have some variance in soil and productivity, as well as topography.

The University of Saskatchewan's Land Resource Centre has prepared a report entitled *The Soils of Hazel Dell Rural Municipality No. 335 – May 1, 1995.*

The report provides a description of the soil capability for agriculture for the lands in the R.M. of Hazel Dell, which encompasses the scope of the Stove Creek land use plan.

The soil capability for agricultural use is an interpretive classification of soils based on limitations affecting their use for production of annual crops. The soils are grouped into seven capability classes. Soils rated as Classes 1 to 3 are considered suitable for sustained production of common cultivated field crops; soils in Class 4 are considered marginal for sustained production of common cultivated field crops; Class 5 soils are considered capable of only permanent pasture and hay production; Class 6 soils are considered suitable only for use as native pasture; and Class 7 soils are considered unsuitable for either the production of field crops or for use as native pasture.

Class O soils are unimproved or virgin organic soils. A description of the soil capability classes is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Description of capability classes.

CLASS 1: Soils in this class have **no significant limitations** in use for crops.

CLASS 2: Soils in this class have **moderate limitations** that restrict the range of crops or require moderate conservation practices.

CLASS 3: Soils in this class have **moderately severe limitations** that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices.

CLASS 4: Soils in this class have **severe limitations** that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices or both.

CLASS 5: Soils in this class have **very severe limitations** that restrict their use to the production of native or tame species of perennial forage crops. Improvement practices are feasible.

CLASS 6: Soils in this class are **capable of producing native forage crops only**. Improvement practices are not feasible.

CLASS 7: Soils in this class have **no capability for arable agriculture or permanent pasture.**

CLASS O: Unimproved or virgin **organic soils** are not included in classes 1 to 7, and are designated by the letter O.

On the lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area outside of the Provincial Forest, the soil capabilities would range from class 3 to class O. The majority of the soils fall into class 3 (approximately 60%) and class 6 (approximately 25%).

Waitville is the predominant soil association on the lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area outside the Provincial Forest. Waitville soils are Gray soils in areas where woody vegetation has had a strong influence on soil formation. Waitville soils are highly leached, resulting in lower organic matter levels, and, therefore, surface color is gray to dark gray. Surface textures of Waitville soils typically range from loam to sandy loam. Waitville soils are found on a wide range of landscapes, with slopes ranging from gentle to steep, and may have stones ranging from slightly stony to exceedingly stony.

Soils in the planning area also have other soil associations typically associated with wooded landscapes, but to a lesser extent.

The overall topography of the Stove Creek Planning Area would be predominantly very gently rolling.

At the time the Stove Creek Land Use Planning process was initiated, there were only two parcels of Crown lease under a grazing disposition to area cattle producers. The remainder of the Crown lands under the disposition of SAF are eligible to be put under a grazing disposition if deemed feasible by SAF staff. Any grazing dispositions that may be granted would have an associated Range Management Plan. Currently, the lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area that are under the disposition of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food would have an estimated total carrying capacity of 1,200 animal unit months.

2.4
Mineral and Oil and Gas Resources

Background

The petroleum and mining industries are respectively, the first and third largest industries in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is a major producer of oil and natural gas and is the world leader in the production of potash and uranium. In 2004 the petroleum industry provided for 9,590 direct jobs, and $1.119 billion in royalties and fees to the province from an annual production valued at $7.253 billion. Also in 2004, the mining industry provided for 5,350 direct jobs, and $352.5 million in royalties, from an annual production valued at $3.01 billion.

Sedimentary rocks of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin underlie the Stove Creek Planning Area. The youngest of these rocks are Cretaceous-aged sandstones and shale. These rest on limestones and dolomites of Ordovician to Devonian age and sandstone of Cambrian age. Precambrian basement rocks of the Canadian Shield lie at a depth of about 900 metres. A veneer or relatively young glacial material covers the bedrock in the region.

There is no current mineral production in the area. There is some regional potential for the occurrence of kimberlite-hosted diamond deposits, such as those in the Fort a la Corne area north of Melfort.

As the area is remote from any current activity, there is an unknown potential for oil and natural gas to exist in the region. The same Cretaceous rocks that host natural gas and oil elsewhere in the province also underlie the Stove Creek Planning Area. As well, the older limestone and dolomite formations that occur at depth are known to host oil in the southern part of the province. Significant oil shale deposits occur in the Pasquia Hills southeast of Nipawin.

Petroleum and natural gas exploration is conducted in accordance with the existing provincial regulations, policies and guidelines. In addition, any activity proposed is subject to environmental impact assessments, when work is to be conducted on lands requiring them. The company doing the work is also subject to conditions set forth in the lease agreements with the department that administers the land or, in the case of private ownership, the landowner.

The mineral industry can be divided into two main components, exploration and production (mining). Initial mineral exploration covers large tracts of land, and is generally non-invasive, involving minimal surface disturbance. Successive exploration programs become more focused on target identification. Mineral exploration is a high-risk activity, and because of the risk, is generally difficult to finance.

Mining is a site-specific activity, with a high impact on a small area (from 10 to a few hundred hectares). Production can be financed due to the relative certainty from a positive economic feasibility study and a defined mineral resource.

All mine developments are subject to stringent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes, which are regulated by SE, before any approval is given for development. The EIA includes requirements for rehabilitating the site following production, supported by a performance bond.

Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR) is responsible for the administration of all Crown-owned mineral and petroleum commodities, including quarried commodities, in the province, with the exception of aggregates (sand, gravel and structural clay) and horticultural peat, which are administered by SAF and SE in the Stove Creek Planning Area.

SAF and SE administer the Crown surface rights for the Province in the Stove Creek Planning Area. SAF and SE are responsible for the issuance of permits for mineral exploration work projects and surface leases for mining operations. SE's role includes monitoring the environmental regulation of exploration projects and mining operations and the rehabilitation of sites.

SIR controls the disposition of the Crown mineral rights through *The Crown Minerals Act* and related regulations. There are two main types of mineral dispositions, a mineral claim and a mineral lease. A mineral claim allows the claim holder the exclusive right to explore for minerals within the claim area. The claim is held on a year to year basis by expending the required amount on exploration and by filing the work for assessment credit. The claim holder has a guaranteed right to convert the claim to a lease assuming that all of the requirements are met. A mineral lease allows the holder the exclusive right to develop and produce from the lease area subject to lease fees and royalty payments. A mineral lease has a renewable term of 10 years. Mineral claim and lease holders have a right of access to their dispositions, subject to meeting the requirements of the surface permits and leases issued by SAF and SE on Crown land, and in the case of private surface land, negotiating access with the land holder.

Principles

The following land use principles are essential to the mineral (includes oil and gas) industry:

- To ensure the best use of Saskatchewan's non-renewable resources by maintaining access to land for mineral exploration and development whenever possible;
- To provide security of tenure of mineral rights. Compensation to be provided to mineral rights holders whose lands have been voluntarily surrendered for other land uses. There is no legislative provision under *The Crown Minerals Act* for the expropriation of existing mineral dispositions;
- Ensure that land use decisions take into consideration both known and potential mineral resources. The potential economic loss must be considered for any proposals which would restrict access to these resources; and
- Ensure that the mineral industry is consulted on land use decisions.

Land Use Issues and Suggested Recommendations

The land use issue of continued access to land is vital to the mineral and oil and gas industries.

Issue – Access to Land

Potential conflicts with other land uses or priorities may restrict access to land for mineral exploration and development.

Limitations on mineral exploration and development will have negative economic implications. Land lost from mineral exploration and production represents a potential economic loss to the Province. Any loss of economic development and employment opportunities in rural and northern parts of the province is serious, as these areas suffer from high unemployment.

Recommendations

For any land use proposal that could restrict mineral exploration and development the following course of action is required:

- Contact SIR to evaluate the mineral potential of the area. SIR has already identified existing mineral deposits and potential mineral resources by conducting a mineral resource assessment of the plan area. Periodic updates of this assessment will be required to incorporate new information, including input from the mining industry, as part of an ongoing process.
- SIR will identify existing mineral dispositions in the area from current mineral disposition maps.

- Using this information, negotiations among the various stakeholders will resolve conflicts where possible. Options could include moving the site of the conflicting use to one of lower mineral potential, or the land use proposal could be altered to address the concerns of the mineral interests.

In summary, initial mineral exploration requires large land areas where the exploration activities have no significant impact on the landscape. Successive stages of exploration target progressively smaller areas where some impact on the landscape may occur. These stages of exploration require surface exploration permits issued by SE and SAF, with specific regulations governing activities and the reclamation of disturbed sites. In the extremely rare situation where a mineral ore body is to be mined, an EIA must be approved by SE prior to the issuance of a surface lease that is necessary for mining to take place.

2.5 Water

Surface water in the Stove Creek Planning Area consists of large wetlands, including both Stove Lake, Noreen Lake (Moon Lake) and a portion of Raven Lake on the west side. There are also numerous unnamed wetlands throughout the area. Stove Creek and the headwaters of the Assiniboine River also originate in this area. The SRC inventory suggests there is about 4,384 acres (1,774 ha) of water in the area, or approximately 12 per cent of the area.

Background

The Stove Creek Planning Area lies within two hydrologic sub-basins. Approximately 24 per cent of the planning area, located on the western side, is encompassed by the Red Deer sub-basin. The remaining 76 per cent falls within the Assiniboine River sub-basin.

There are three named lakes within the Planning Area: Noreen (Moon), Raven and Stove.

Noreen Lake, known locally as Moon Lake, is near the northern boundary and flows southwesterly into Raven Lake.

Raven Lake flows to the west via High Hill Creek within the Red Deer sub-basin.

Stove Lake flows easterly via Stove Creek to the Assiniboine River. The Assiniboine River transects the north-eastern portion of the Stove Creek Planning Area. This area is the headwaters of the Assiniboine River.

There are numerous wetlands and small water bodies throughout the Stove Creek Planning Area. The SRC inventory indicates that there are 1,774 hectares (4,384 acres) of water in the area, which represents approximately 12 per cent of the Planning Area.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Mandate and Responsibilities:
The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's mandate is to manage, protect and develop the province's water and related land resources for the benefit of everyone in the province. *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005* outlines the responsibilities of this Treasury Board Crown corporation as the regulator of essentially all surface water, groundwater, and drainage works. Approvals from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority must be obtained for the use of surface or groundwater, and for the construction and operation of all water supply and storage works, drainage or diversion of water, plus municipal water and sewage works. Wells and dugouts that are to be used for domestic purposes are exempt from these processes.

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's records indicate that there are currently (as of January 2007) no surface water, groundwater, drainage or flood-control projects within the Stove Creek Planning Area.

Upper Assiniboine River Basin Study
In October 1996, the governments of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Canada agreed to conduct this study of the Upper Assiniboine River Basin (UARB).

The study was initiated as a result of the 1995 flood and other issues, including drainage and flood control and the disappearance of wetland habitat. In addition, there was uncertainty regarding sustainable water supplies for municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational purposes and lack of knowledge regarding the hydrologic and ecological processes and their effects at work within the Basin. There was also a growing concern about water quality and uncertainty regarding appropriate aquifer management and protection.

The UARB study provides information on the Basin's water resources, as well as information and recommendations on which to base decisions affecting future water management.

The Stove Creek Land Use Planning area falls within the upper reaches of the Upper Assiniboine River Basin. Information generated for the UARB is available for the Advisory Committee and may be of value. The UARB's recommendations would also be applicable to the Stove Creek Planning Area.

Importance of Natural Buffers
There is a need to emphasize the importance of maintaining natural buffers along the edge of all water bodies and water courses.

Summary of the Porcupine Forest Moose and Deer Populations in the Stove Creek Planning Area

Year	Moose Density Estimate Moose/km2	White-tailed Deer Density Deer/km2
1983/84	0.88	
1986/87	0.94	
1988/89	1.00	
1991/92	0.74	
1995/96	0.71	0.75
1996/97	0.78	
1997/98	0.65	
1999/00	0.87	
2002-03	0.78	
2003-04		3.00

Summary of Elk Populations in the Stove Creek Planning Area

Year	Elk Observed	Elk Density Elk/km2
1996/97	34	0.23
1999/00	26	0.17

Wildlife Habitat Rating for Elk (SRC 1996)

Rating	Forage Value		Hiding Cover		Thermal Cover	
Low	1,841 ha	14%	1,667 ha	13%	4,185 ha	32%
Moderate	*8,043 ha	61%	4,524 ha	34%	8,383 ha	64%
High	11 ha	0%	6,924 ha	53%	547 ha	4%
Very high	**3,220 ha	25%				

* This amount could be improved by forest harvest (estimate that 15% could be converted to high value)
** This amount is considered relatively permanent because this rating consists of wetlands, clearings and grasslands

2.6
Wildlife and Habitat Rating

As mentioned earlier, the Stove Creek Planning Area is important for elk. However, this area is also important for a number of other big game species, as well as a variety of non-game wildlife species.

The SRC report suggests that there are 349 vertebrate species associated with the boreal forest (Smith 1993). Of these, 252 are birds, and 148 of these birds breed in the boreal forest.

Waterfowl

(The following report was filed by Kevin Karmark of Ducks Unlimited Canada [DUC], Wadena, at a Committee meeting):

The Canada Land Inventory (CLI) for waterfowl capability for the area within the Stove Creek Land Use Plan boundaries indicates that about 90 per cent of the area is Class 3, which suggests waterfowl production is moderately high with slight limitations due to climate and occasional drought. The region has a high proportion of temporary semi-permanent shallow marshes poorly interspersed with deep marshes and bodies of open water.

When looking at waterfowl pairs per square mile within the Stove Creek Planning Area, it suggests that about:

- 45 per cent of the area supports 50-60 pairs/sq. mile
- 42 per cent of the area supports 40-50 pairs/sq. mile
- 13 per cent of the area supports 30-40 pairs/sq. mile

In comparison, when looking at mallard use it indicates that about 80 per cent of the Stove Creek Planning Area supports 15 – 20 pairs/sq. mile, or about 30 per cent of total waterfowl production in the area.

DUC also has four wetland projects outside the Stove Creek Planning Area. They are Klogei Lake, Pickel Lake, Robinson Lake and Yuban.

Furbearing animals

Furbearers in the area consist of a variety of species common to the boreal forest. Trapping is administered in two distinct areas. The Stove Creek Planning Area that includes the forest is part of the Piwie (H-104) Northern Fur Conservation Area, and trapping is allocated and administered according to the legislation and guidelines applicable to this area. The Crown land outside the Provincial Forest is allocated by the respective administrative Crown agencies.

Wild Fur Harvest H-104 Piwei
(less than five per cent of this Fur Block is within the Stove Creek Planning Area)
2003-04

Species	Quantity of Pelts	Price of Pelts
Badger	1	$36.24
Beaver	105	$2,306.85
Coyote	150	$6,936.00
Fisher	34	$1,474.92
Fox-Red	2	$46.74
Lynx	1	$215.23
Marten	3	$182.67
Mink	2	$41.66
Muskrat	5	$10.10
Otter	5	$835.50
Raccoon	12	$209.40
Skunk	6	$39.42
Squirrel	37	$40.33
Weasel	18	$51.48
Total	381	$12,426.54

Section 3.0
Existing Development and Land/Water Use Activities

Land use within the Stove Creek Planning Area consists of the following:

- **Provincial Forest** comprises 57 per cent of the area (20,480 acres). This forest is part of the Weyerhaeuser Forest Management Agreement. This forest is also a part of the Pasquia-Porcupine Land Use Plan which guides other land uses in this area.
- **Agricultural Crown land** comprises 21 per cent of the area (7,680 acres). Most of this land is currently vacant (not leased). This land is also considered important for wildlife and is, therefore, protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act.* These lands are currently available for public use, and are also available for a grazing disposition, subject to a Range Management Plan.
- **Land purchased under the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF)** comprises 15 per cent of the area (5,520 acres). These lands are Crown lands managed for wildlife and are available for public use.
- **Private land**, which is not part of the Stove Creek Land Use Plan, comprises six per cent of the area (2,000 acres).
- **Resource Crown lands** comprise two per cent of the area (320 acres). These lands are vacant (not leased) and are available to the public for recreational purposes.

Land use within the Stove Creek Planning Area consists mainly of timber harvesting, outfitting, and recreation. These activities are an important source of revenue for the local economy through both direct and indirect employment.

Weyerhaeuser has a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) on the lands within the planning area that are within the Provincial Forest. At the time this land use plan was developed, there were three small timber harvesting operations working in the planning area. There are also a few fuel wood permits taken out on some of the lands in the planning area. All of the lands under SAF administration are designated under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act.*

The Stove Creek Planning Area provides an abundance of big game and bird hunting opportunities. White-tailed deer, moose, elk, and bear all inhabit the planning area, which is heavily utilized by sport hunters annually. This activity also provides economic value to the local community.

At the time the land use plan was developed, nine outfitters were operating in the planning area for white-tailed deer and/or bear. Acknowledging the fact that some of the outfitters operating in the planning area also operate on lands outside of the planning area, the total gross revenue generated by the outfitters from sale of their hunting packages is estimated to be approximately $1.3 million annually. The outfitting activities directly and indirectly create local employment and enhance the local economy.

The Stove Creek Planning Area provides snowmobile and ATV enthusiasts with an opportunity to ride through forested areas. The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) has a number of trails through the planning area that are groomed and marked. Beyond the planning area, the trails provide a link to gasoline and oil purchases, and food and lodging.

The Lintlaw 75 is a 75-mile snowmobile rally that is held annually. The ride passes through part of the Stove Creek Planning Area. Over the last 20 years, the rally has attracted an average of over 400 riders per year. Snowmobiling creates a substantial positive economic impact on local businesses. According to the SSA, Saskatchewan snowmobilers ride their snowmobiles an average of 1,763 kilometers per season, and spend an average of $207 a day when on a snowmobile tour.

There are a number of other recreational uses of the lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area.

Section 4.0
Issues and Interests

(These issues and interests are not necessarily in order of priority and include only significant issues)

4.1
Forest Management and Harvest

One of the primary interests in developing a land use plan for this area was to consider sustainable forest harvesting, on a landscape basis, within the Stove Creek Planning Area as a legitimate method of maintaining or improving wildlife habitat in the area. The SRC report entitled "Wildlife Habitat Management in the Stove Creek Area" has provided the inventory and details for this initiative.

Forest harvesting within the Porcupine Forest is largely allocated to Weyerhaeuser under authority of a forest management agreement. There are also some small forest operations within, or adjacent to, the Stove Creek Planning Area. Weyerhaeuser has adopted the SRC recommendations in their cutting plan for the area.

Forest harvesting on Crown land outside the Stove Creek Planning Area has largely been non-existent.

4.2
Unauthorized Recreation Cabins and Additional Recreation Cabin Development

There are three unauthorized recreation cabins located on undeveloped "original" road allowances and one cabin located on SAF agricultural Crown land in the Stove Creek Planning Area.

Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation authorizes the uses on original road allowances. Authorization for uses, other than roads (which involves a closing order), also involves the local rural municipality.

Currently, SAF's policy on recreational cabins on agricultural Crown lands is contained with the policy on improvements, which is more related to agriculture uses. *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* does not permit recreation cabins on designated lands.

SE does not allow additional cabins within the Porcupine Provincial Forest, other than in areas identified in the Pasquia-Porcupine Land Use Plan. Cabin development is prohibited on FWDF lands.

4.3
Protection of Heritage, Archaeological and Cultural Sites

Stakeholders and Yellow Quill First Nations have expressed an interest in locating and protecting all sites that have a significant heritage, archaeological or cultural value within the Stove Creek Planning Area. These resources are an important representation of the past and there is a need to protect them.

4.4
Protection and Continuation of Existing Interests in the Area (agriculture, snowmobile trails, trapping, outfitting)

Continued public access to the lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area is a concern. While Crown lands under SAF administration may be leased out to individual occupants, access to the public for activities traditional to the area is desirable. Interests are as follows:

- Accommodating other compatible multiple uses of the lands in the Stove Creek Planning Area, while
- Recognizing the public's desire to access leased Crown lands, and the Crown lessee's ability to control access during the grazing season is essential to protect fences and livestock.

4.5
Economic Development and Multiple Uses on Crown Lands

- Monitoring development to ensure the protection of natural resources from potentially negative impacts.
- Ensuring sustainable tourism-related uses of lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area to promote enhancement of the local economy.
- Maintaining access to lands for mineral, oil and gas, and sand and gravel exploration and development, subject to site restoration.

4.6
Wildlife Resources

- Maintaining certain lands in their natural state for wildlife habitat, particularly those lands that may relate to species at risk or represent a rare or unique landscape.
- Promoting timber harvest on certain lands as a wildlife habitat enhancement method.
- Regulating and monitoring developments to ensure the protection of wildlife.

Section 5.0
Objectives, Strategies and Management Policies

Introduction

The original intended objectives of SE and SAF were to:

- Commit the Crown lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area to the development and implementation of a long-term management plan consistent with the SRC report entitled *Wildlife Habitat Management in the Stove Creek Area*; and
- Involve other persons, bodies, agencies and interests in the development and implementation of this management plan.

Forest Management and Harvest

Objective	Strategies
❑ Manage the forest on Crown lands (outside the Provincial Forest) in the Stove Creek Planning Area in a sustainable manner and in accordance with the SRC Report ❑ To the extent possible, prevent and control invasive species, particularly caragana (*Caragana arborscens)*	❑ Protect and maintain sensitive areas in a natural state ❑ Permit forest harvesting within the Stove Creek Planning Area where compatible with designated management areas and in accordance with SE/SAF policies ❑ Identify and record caragana sites
Management Policies	
1. Timber permits will be based on SE's current policy that considers an acreage/cord volume of hardwoods applicable to lands designated as important under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act.* 2. SE will allow timber harvest on all Crown lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area, outside of the Provincial Forest, as a management tool for wildlife habitat enhancement, as per the SRC report and in accordance with an approved operating plan. 3. SAF will issue dispositions for managed woodlots. 4. Allow local and small operators the opportunity to harvest timber within the Stove Creek Planning Area (outside the Provincial Forest). **5. Because softwoods (mainly white spruce) are very limited within this area, harvesting will only be considered as a method to control insect infestations or to otherwise salvage flooded or decaying stands.** 6. To the extent possible, control and remove caragana patches by spraying and/or hand clearing.	

Unauthorized Recreation Cabins and Additional Recreation Cabin Development

Objectives	Strategies
❑ Resolve all existing unauthorized cabins within the Stove Creek Planning Area ❑ Entertain further discussion on additional recreation cabin development within the Stove Creek Planning Area	❑ Develop a publicly supported and consistent policy on recreation cabins on Crown administered lands outside the Provincial Forest (involving all Crown agencies)

Management Policies

1. SAF will review its policy with respect to improvements and specifically with regard to recreational cabins on agricultural Crown lands.

Protection of Heritage, Archaeological and Cultural Sites

Objective	Strategies
❑ Protect all known heritage, archaeological and cultural sites	❑ Record all known sites in an electronic database (to ensure protection through confidentiality) ❑ Screen all development proposals against known sites ❑ Determine reasonable buffers from intrusive activities around known sites from zero to any other distance as determined by the Heritage Branch and other interested parties

Management Policies

1. Pursuant to *The Heritage Property Act*, all land use and development proposals will be screened for potential heritage concerns and to determine the need for impact assessment, salvage excavation or other conservation measures.
2. Consultation referral arrangements to First Nations will be encouraged by government agencies as part of the development review process where identified or suspected traditional locations may be involved.

Protection and Continuation of Existing Interests in the Area (agriculture, snowmobile trails, trapping, outfitting)

Objective	Strategies
❑ Ensure, to the extent possible, all existing activities and interests in the area are maintained ❑ Restrict some existing activities at current levels ❑ Provide for the viable and sustainable agricultural use of Crown land and maintain the opportunity of leasing Crown lands for agricultural purposes to benefit the producer and the municipality/community	❑ Resolve non-authorized activities (for example, snowmobile trails, eco-tourism and outfitting on WHPA lands) through policy/legislative change ❑ Consider no increases in some uses, activities or developments (for example, no increase in snowmobile trails development or big game outfitting) ❑ Lease Crown land (as per SAF policies) ❑ Consider soil quality and topography in determining viable agricultural uses and/or development ❑ Require Range Management Plans on native grazing leases ❑ Maintain, to the extent possible, public access on traditionally vacant Crown lands

Management Policies

1. Access to Crown lands will be considered based on current permitted uses and activities of the land management area
2. Agricultural leasing will be permitted on areas suitable for grazing by domestic livestock as determined by SAF in conjunction with a Range Management Plan. Leasing will be in conjunction with the uses and activities permitted in the Resource Stewardship Area.
3. SAF will review all recreation-based proposals for use of lands in the Resource Stewardship Area, considering any potential impact on the environment as well as the local economy.
4. SAF and SE will maintain dialogue with agencies, groups or individuals with an interest in the uses of the lands within the planning area.
5. Any activity that is likely to involve habitat alteration within the Resource Stewardship Area will be jointly reviewed and authorized by SAF and SE.

Economic Development and Multiple Use of Crown Land

Objective	Strategies
❑ Balance economic development with environmental protection ❑ Support economic opportunities in areas such as recreation and tourism	❑ Monitor and control development ❑ Consider requests for various uses on all Crown Lands ❑ Consider access to vacant SAF Crown lands for non-agricultural opportunities

Management Policies

1. SAF will consider proposals relating to economic diversification in the use of all SAF Crown land
2. SAF will promote non-agricultural activities on SAF Crown lands

Sand, Gravel and Mineral Development (including oil and gas)

Objectives	Strategies
❑ Allow mineral exploration and development, including the quarrying of sand and gravel ❑ Minimize the impact of mineral exploration and development on the landscape/environment	❑ Mineral exploration and development, including the quarrying of sand and gravel, will be allowed subject to meeting SAF/SE requirements ❑ Subject to SE/SAF requirements and environmental impact review

Management Policies

1. Current SAF, SE, and SIR regulations for permitting and leasing
2. Procedure as per SIR guidelines regarding the issuance of mineral dispositions
3. SAF-SE issues permits for mineral exploration subject to environmental requirements as described in the SE document: Mineral Exploration Guidelines for Saskatchewan. Mineral development proposals are subject to an environmental review, commonly as a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulated by SE. An EIA, which is funded by the proponent, assesses all environmental and societal impacts of the proposed development. This includes the requirements for rehabilitating the site following production. The company must post a performance bond to ensure the rehabilitation. The EIA must be approved before the administering agency issues the surface lease prior to a mine development. SIR must also issue a mineral lease.
4. In accordance with current SAF policy, the RM of Hazel Dell #335 retains the second right of refusal, after Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation (SHT), of quarrying for sand and gravel on SAF Crown land.
5. On SAF lands, sand and gravel development proposals are to meet the requirements of the Sand and Gravel Policy and the Guidelines for Restoration of Saskatchewan Agricultural Crown Rangeland, both administered by SAF.

Wildlife Habitat Management

❑ Recognize the Stove Creek Planning Area as important for wildlife and maintain this area as a functional ecosystem ❑ Improve wildlife habitat in the Stove Creek Planning Area	❑ Restrict activities with potential negative impacts ❑ Consider sustainable forest harvesting for habitat improvement

1. SE and SAF will consider wildlife habitat as a primary factor when reviewing proposed activities.
2. SAF will continue to authorize access to SAF Crown lands for timber harvesting activities.
3. SE will develop a forest management plan for the Stove Creek Planning Area that clearly identifies areas for timber harvesting activities.

Section 6.0
Land Use Management Areas

For the purposes of identifying specific uses on individual lands within the Stove Creek Planning Area, the following land use management areas and the respective activities have been agreed to by the Committee:

6.1
Archaeological Protection Area (APA)
– includes known sites

Intent

- Provides protection of archaeological sites, such as schools, churches, cemeteries, burial sites, sacred sites, gathering sites.
- Foot traffic only.
- Protection could involve a buffer.

6.2
Resource Protection Area (RPA) – includes FWDF lands

Intent

- A high level of land use restriction will apply to this area.
- The area will be maintained in its natural state for public use.
- Developments and land use activities involving surface disturbance would be highly regulated or not allowed.

Permitted Uses

- General recreational uses such as snowmobiling (no new snowmobile trail development would be allowed), hunting, trapping, hiking, sightseeing, bird watching and trail riding.
- Berry picking for personal use.
- Mineral and oil and gas exploration and development designed to minimize impact, including reclamation of the affected areas.
- Grazing, haying and timber harvest that is compatible with wildlife management, or special circumstances (ie. drought, disease).
- Limited sand and gravel development.

6.3
Resource Stewardship Area (RSA) – includes Agriculture and Resource Crown Lands)

Intent

- To conserve lands with important wildlife habitat and maintain land in its natural state.
- To provide for sustainable management and integrated land use.
- The area would be managed to support continuation of traditional land uses and activities, as well as new ventures that are environmentally acceptable.

Permitted Uses

- All of the activities permitted in the RPA.
- Grazing of land in its natural state subject to a range management plan. (For future dispositions, exclusive access to the lands will be limited to the grazing season as defined in the range management plan.)
- Limited development for fence lines (as per SAF and SE guidelines).
- Watering of livestock based on locations specified in a range management plan.
- Timber harvest, cutting of firewood and woodlot management subject to SE's current policies.

- Tree farming, nurseries and apiaries (subject to guidelines).
- "Woodlot license."
- Ecotourism. (Must be accredited through a provincially recognized tourism agency such as the Ecotourism Society of Saskatchewan.)
- Existing outfitters within existing outfitting areas may continue to operate (subject to SAF and SE requirements). There is to be no expansion of the actual number of outfitters operating in the area.
- Hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, hiking, berry picking.
- Aquaculture and fish farming, under the condition that there is no threat to the natural fish resource.
- Mineral and oil and gas exploration and development subject to SAF, SE and SIR guidelines
- Sand and gravel development subject to restoration as per SAF and SE guidelines.
- Limited land clearing and development for agricultural purposes pending SAF and SE authorization.

Land Use Activity	Archaeological Protection Area	Resource Protection Area	Resource Stewardship Area
Forestry		X (mgmt plan)	X (mgmt plan)
Grazing		X (mgmt plan)	X (mgmt plan)
Snowmobiling/ATV		X (current level)	X (current level)
Hunting	X	X	X
Outfitting			X
Ecotourism			X
Recreation cabins			
Trapping	X	X	X
Mineral, and oil and gas exploration and development		X	X
Sand and gravel		X	X

Please note: Legislation and government policy related to Crown land activities is subject to change, and although the Committee will be consulted on these changes, this land use plan will not over-ride any broad provincial change. For example, if a change in provincial policy suggests commercial uses, such as outfitting and ecotourism, are now permitted on FWDF land, this land use plan will not prevent this activity within the Stove Creek Planning Area.

Section 7.0
Implementation

7.1
Legislative and Regulatory Control

Major stakeholder groups were represented on the Planning and Advisory Committees and worked collectively on the development of the Stove Creek Land Use Plan. The following provincial agencies will provide a legal basis for implementing the policies of the Plan through legislative and regulatory controls:

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) – administers Crown land leases established under the authority of *The Provincial Lands Act.* Any leases, permits, licenses or other authorizations will take into consideration the policies and recommendations of the Plan.

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) – administers *The Ecological Reserves Act* permitting the designation of natural areas, and *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, 1992*, whereby lands that are important to wildlife may be designated. Developments are subject to review under *The Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act.* Forest harvesting activities are regulated under *The Forest Resources Management Act.*

Industry and Resources (SIR) – administers *The Energy and Mines Act, The Mineral Resources Act, The Crown Minerals Act, The Oil and Gas Conservation Act* and *The Pipelines Act*, which control petroleum, natural gas and mineral development. Any exploration or development will have regard for the policies of the Plan.

Rural Municipality of Hazel Dell #335 – The land use planning area is under the jurisdiction of the municipality, which has the authority to control development through land use zoning under *The Planning and Development Act, 1983.*

Special Interest Groups – There are a number of special interest groups that were involved in preparation of the Plan that will be important in plan implementation.

7.2
Implementation Policies

The following implementation policies shall apply:

- Government agencies involved in the administration of land included in the Stove Creek Land Use Plan will recognize the land use policies in decision making.

- As required, stakeholder participation will be maintained in implementing the Plan.

7.3
Recommendations

The following are recommendations of the Planning and Advisory Committees:

On recreational cabins
SAF has proposed removing cabins as an issue in the Stove Creek Land Use Plan until SAF develops a provincial policy to deal with them, for the following reason:

Consensus could not be reached on the issue.

The issue of cabins will be brought back to the Stove Creek Committees after the development of a policy.

Recreational cabins are currently not allowed on lands designated under WHPA.

On identification of new stakeholder groups

The Committees acknowledge that there may be stakeholder groups that will be identified after the Plan has been developed and implemented.

Where this occurs, the Committees recommend that the proponent receive an invitation to one of the annual meetings to give a presentation on why they feel they are a legitimate stakeholder group.

On outfitting

The number of outfitters operating in the planning area will not increase.

No additional outfitters will be allowed to operate in the planning area.

Any allocation of outfitting areas is to be consistent with SE's policy on outfitting.

On timber harvest

The Committee could not reach a consensus on allocating timber harvest on lands outside of the Provincial Forest.

The following stakeholder groups felt that local individuals should have first priority to harvest timber:

- Saskatchewan Outfitters Association
- Local Land Owners
- Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, and
- Weyerhaeuser.

The following stakeholder groups felt that the Crown lessee should have first priority to harvest timber:

- Crown Lessees

The following stakeholder groups felt that priority to harvest timber from lands outside of the Provincial Forest shall not be given to anybody:

- Cabin Owners
- Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
- Saskatchewan Environment, and
- Saskatchewan Trappers Association.

The Committees acknowledge that the fallback position may need to be implemented with respect to the issue of locating timber harvest on crown lands outside of the Provincial Forest.

Section 8.0
Plan Monitoring and Review

The Planning and Advisory Committees will meet on an annual basis, or as required, to review progress and implementation, and to address new issues.

The Committees may meet more frequently, if an interest or need arises and at the discretion of the chairman. New proposals to the Stove Creek Planning Area will be circulated to the committee members two weeks prior to any annual meeting.

Section 9.0
Glossary

The following terms are used throughout the Stove Creek Land Use Plan.

Advisory Committee – a committee composed of representatives from each of the identified stakeholder groups. They are a liaison between their respective stakeholder group and the land use plan.

Agriculture Disposition – the permitting, licensing, leasing or sale of Crown land by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.

Consensus – a process whereby the stakeholders work together to reach agreement on actions and outcomes that resolve or advance issues related to environmental, social and economic sustainability. Although agreement may not be reached on all aspects, consensus is reached if all participants are willing to live with "the total package."

Development – the carrying out of any building, engineering, mining, or other operations in, on or over land or the making of any material change in the use or intensity of the use of any building or parcel of land.

Ecotourism – an enlightening nature travel experience that contributes to conservation of the ecosystem and to the cultural and economic resources of the host communities.

The Ecotourism Society of Saskatchewan definition of ecotourism is as follows: " . . . respectful, environmentally responsible travel to relatively undisturbed and uncontaminated natural areas, with the objective of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery, its wild plants and animals and cultural features. Ecotourism does not disrupt the wildlife or its habitat. It is nature-centered, non-consumptive, promotes conservation and economic benefits to local communities."

Fallback Procedure – referral to the regulatory government agency responsible for the area of concern.

Habitat – a place or location where an organism or species characteristically lives or grows.

Land Use Plan – a plan describing the use and management of Crown lands and resources within the planning area.

Management Area – an identified parcel of land that has defined permitted and prohibited uses.

Outfitting – the provision of facilities, equipment or services by an outfitter for the purpose of assisting another person in the hunting, taking or catching of wildlife.

Outfitter – a person who provides an outfitting service for, or for the promise or expectation of, remuneration, economic or material gain, or business or employment benefit (Saskatchewan Environment).

Plan – the Stove Creek Land Use Plan.

Planning Area – the geographical area as described in the Stove Creek Land Use Plan and examined by the Planning and Advisory Committees with regard to land uses and activities.

Planning Committee – a committee composed of members from each of the regulatory groups involved in the development of the Plan.

Range Management Plan – a written plan with clearly defined conditions which is used to manipulate the biological and physical factors of an ecosystem to derive maximum resource productivity and sustainable use without degradation.

Reclamation/Restoration – post disturbance modification of the landscape to a desired state.

Sustainable – the ability to manage and sustain a resource over time.

Traditional Cultural Location – any site that is considered by a community to be significant because of its association with the community's cultural practices or beliefs. The land is rooted in the community's history and is important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

Woodlot Management Plan – a plan that outlines the requirements/conditions for managing the forest resource on a parcel of land over an extended period of time.

Appendix A

Mineral Exploration Process

The following notes describe the general mineral exploration process from the initial stages through to the mine development.

- Initial research to outline a region of interest, usually for a specific mineral deposit type. This may include: government geology and mineral reports and maps, assessment files, mineral deposit index, mineral disposition maps, among other materials; discussions with government geologists; and private (company or individual) information where available.

- Regional "grassroots" exploration to define more specific areas of interest (thousands to hundreds of thousands of hectares).

  Prospecting, reconnaissance geologic mapping, reconnaissance geochemical sampling (e.g. rock, soil, and stream sediment) and airborne geophysical surveying. These activities take place over large areas and have no impact on the landscape.

- The staking of mineral claims over specific areas of interest.

  A mineral claim grants the holder the sole right to explore within the claim boundary. Claim tags and registration forms must be acquired from the local mining recorder's office prior to the staking of the mineral claims. Up-to-date mineral disposition maps from the mining recorder's office should be checked before any staking is done to ensure that there is not a conflict with existing dispositions or reserves. The claims are rectangular in shape and in northern unsurveyed areas are marked on the ground with four tagged corner posts joined by cut and flagged lines. In the southern surveyed part of the province, the claims are issued by map staking and they are not marked on the ground. The claims must be registered with the mining recorder's office.

- Property-scale exploration to identify and define targets (hectares to hundreds of hectares).

  A surface exploration permit from Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) is required before any of this work can be done on Crown land. Typically, the first step in property-scale exploration is the cutting by hand of a reference grid over the area(s) of interest. The initial work may normally consist of geologic mapping, prospecting and rock sampling, geochemical sampling, and geophysical surveying. These activities have minimal impact on the landscape.

  If specific exploration targets or sites of mineralization are identified, they will be examined in detail (scale of hectares). If the mineralization occurs at or near surface, the area is often trenched or stripped by hand or with equipment and sampled. The depth and length extent of surface mineralization and/or undefined geophysical or geological targets may be evaluated with diamond drill holes which produce

cores of rock which can be examined, logged and sampled, or by other types of drilling such as reverse circulation. This phase of exploration typically has a significant impact on localized areas as heavy equipment is commonly involved and temporary access roads may be required. Reclamation of disturbed sites is required.

- Mineral deposit delineation program (hectares to tens of hectares).

  In the very rare situation where significant mineralization is discovered, a delineation diamond drill program is carried out to define the dimensions and grade of the deposit. Commonly, other exploration activities are also conducted, such as mapping, trenching, stripping, rock sampling and geophysical surveying. Several phases of drilling may be carried out. Bulk testing may also be required to properly evaluate some deposit types. In the later stages of this delineation process, underground exploration will also sometimes be conducted which requires the excavation of an exploration shaft or ramp. Underground excavations may require the approval by SE of an Environmental Impact Assessment (see Mining below). This advanced stage of exploration typically involves a high level of surface disturbance on a small area. The reclamation of the disturbed area(s) is required.

- Mining of the ore body (10 to a few hundred hectares).

  In the extremely rare situation where an economic ore body is delineated, mining may take place following a rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process that assesses all environmental and societal impacts of the proposed development. Mining will have a high impact on a small area, typically from ten to a few hundred hectares. The EIA includes the requirements for rehabilitating the site following production. The rehabilitation is supported by a performance bond that is posted by the company. SE regulates the EIA process and must approve the EIA before a surface lease is granted for the mine. The company must also convert the mineral claims(s) to a mineral lease(s) before production can take place.

- Saskatchewan Industry and Resources contacts are as follows:

  Murray Rogers, Mineral Assessment Geologist,
  Regina
  Tel: (306) 787-1932
  Fax: (306) 787-1284

  Andre Costa, Resident Geologist,
  La Ronge
  Tel: (306) 425-4499
  Fax: (306) 425-2909

  Mike O'Brien, Mining Recorder,
  La Ronge
  Tel: (306) 425-4600
  Fax: (306) 425-2909

  Kelly Klyne, Mining Recorder,
  Regina
  Tel: (306) 787-2538
  Fax: (306) 787-1284

Appendix B

The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act
Background and Permitted Activities/Dispositions

The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA) is "An Act respecting the Protection and Management of Crown Lands for Agriculture and Wildlife."

In 1984, the Government of Saskatchewan initiated a wildlife conservation process by creating and passing *The Critical Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, which is now referred to as *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

The process of selecting Crown lands for designation under the WHPA was through the Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Inventory initiative that was conducted in the 1970s and 1980s and focused primarily on land supporting game species.

The WHPA currently protects approximately:

- 3.1-million acres of Crown lands, and
- about 0.4-million acres of Crown wetlands.

The WHPA prevents government from selling these designated Crown lands and requires that lessees and proponents must obtain permission from Saskatchewan Environment (SE) before most alterations occur. Some alterations are permitted under the regulations. These alterations must be considered incidental to the activity. (See permitted activity listing below.)

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) directly administers uses and dispositions on the majority of the WHPA lands. However, SE and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) also administer some WHPA lands.

SE administers the WHPA and the associated regulations:

The Wildlife Habitat Lands Disposition and Alteration Regulations,
The Wildlife Habitat Designation Regulations, and
The Treaty Land Entitlement Withdrawal Regulations.

Permitted activities/dispositions under *The Wildlife Habitat Lands Disposition and Alteration Regulations*:

- exploration and extraction of oil, natural gas, or non-hydrocarbon gases;
- grazing of livestock and activities incidental to grazing;
- haying for agricultural purposes;
- cultivation for agricultural purposes on those WHPA lands under cultivation on the day of designation;
- forest harvesting;
- exploration and extraction of sand, gravel or clay;
- mineral exploration and development dispositions pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*;
- provincial roads, provided no alteration is made more than 40 metres from (1) the centre line in an undivided highway, (2) the nearest shoulder in the case of a divided highway;
- municipal roads, provided no alteration is made more than 25 metres from the centre line of the road;
- radio and telecommunications facilities or equipment; and
- transmission of electricity, oil or natural gas.

The Treaty Land Entitlement Withdrawal Regulations:

Under *The Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement* (TLE Framework Agreement) signed in 1992, the province has agreed with Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) to address outstanding entitlements.

Sale of Crown lands is based upon the principle of "willing seller/willing buyer" (TLE Framework Agreement Section 4.05), and designated lands under WHPA will only be sold by Saskatchewan under exceptional circumstances (TLE Framework Agreement Section 4.07[a]).

However, in accordance with the TLE Framework Agreement principles, Saskatchewan has made Crown land available for sale to Indian Bands with entitlements, including certain Crown lands designated under WHPA.

Appendix C

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF)

In 1970, in an effort to protect important wildlife habitat in Saskatchewan, the government created the Wildlife Development Fund and placed a small impost on hunting licenses to support this fund. A fisheries component was added in 1984, and the fund name was changed to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF). The FWDF now receives 30 per cent of the revenue generated from all fur, angling and hunting licenses sold in the province.

The FWDF is administered by Saskatchewan Environment, governed by *The Natural Resources Act*, and is used to protect, monitor and improve both fish and wildlife resources throughout Saskatchewan.

Habitat is the primary focus. However, there is an increasing interest to work, in partnership, with other conservation minded organizations and individuals in an effort to continue to improve Saskatchewan's fish and wildlife resources.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Components of the FWDF are accounted for separately and according to the associated license revenue received. Some of the activities associated with these respective Components are:

Fisheries Component (angling licenses)

One of the major initiatives within the Fisheries Component of the FWDF is habitat protection and restoration. Projects that preserve threatened natural habitat, and rehabilitate or create new habitat in an effort to maintain sustainable fisheries is the primary focus.

Other activities also supported by the Fisheries Component of the FWDF are the provincial fish culture operations, educational programming, research, invasive species planning, fish stock assessments, and species at risk initiatives.

Wildlife Component (hunting and fur licenses)

One of the major initiatives within the Wildlife Component of the FWDF continues to be habitat protection. These efforts have acquired over 190,000 acres (77,000 hectares) of wildlife habitat lands within agricultural Saskatchewan. These habitat lands are managed for wildlife and open to the public. A list of these lands, by rural municipality, can be found on Saskatchewan Environment's website at: www.se.gov.sk.ca

Appendix D

Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation
Authorization for Alternate Uses

Checklist to Close and Transfer Streets and Roads under Municipal Jurisdiction Pursuant to Section 13(3) of *The Municipalities Act*

PLEASE NOTE:

Title to a public highway will not be transferred unless alternate access exists or is provided. These closures are to be consolidated with the adjacent lands at the cost of the purchaser or municipality. Contact a Saskatchewan Land Surveyor or Information Services Corporation (ISC) for process and associated fees.

Pursuant to Section 13(3) of *The Municipalities Act*, the consent of the Minister of Highways and Transportation is to be obtained prior to passing a municipal bylaw in all cases affecting the closing and selling of a street or road.

Consent of the Minister is not required when a municipality is closing, or closing and leasing, a road without a transfer of title. However, in cases where the road being closed connects to a provincial highway, the department's consent is required in accordance with Section 13(11)(b) of *The Municipalities Act*.

The Minister's mandate, as representative of the Crown ownership, is to ensure the proposed closure and transfer will not affect public access and is in accordance with legislative requirements.

Items to be submitted by the municipality to obtain Ministerial Consent for close and transfer of title:

1. Request from the municipality for consent to proceed with bylaw to close roadway.
2. A description or a proposed plan (signed and dated) of the roadway to be closed and transferred and ensuring utilities are not affected, or will be dealt with.

Municipal requirements for passing of Bylaw as part of the street and road closure and transfer process:

1. Council shall give public notice before initially considering any report on a proposed bylaw to close a street or road and shall give any person prejudicially affected by the bylaw an opportunity to be heard by Council and/or is injuriously affected is entitled to be compensated for damages in accordance to Sections 13(4), (5) and (6) of *The Municipalities Act*.
2. Sale agreements are subject to conditions as set out in Section 13 (3) of *The Municipalities*

Act which includes reversionary rights of road allowances and the registration of that interest in the Land Titles Registry.

3. A sale agreement must not eliminate access to land and is subject to any easement or right-of-way required for a public utility service.
4. If only part of the municipal road is to be closed, Planning Approval will be required and must be supplied by the municipality.
5. Council is responsible for the construction and maintenance, erection and repair of all signs and fences necessary to protect the travelling public in accordance to Section 15(1) of *The Municipalities Act*.

Information to be submitted by the municipality for the transfer (transform) of title:

1. Copy of the Transform Approval Certificate and the appropriate consolidation plan from Information Services Corporation (ISC).

For more information, contact:
Land Branch
Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation
Phone: (306)787-4045
Fax: (306)787-4100

Map

Stove Creek Project Area

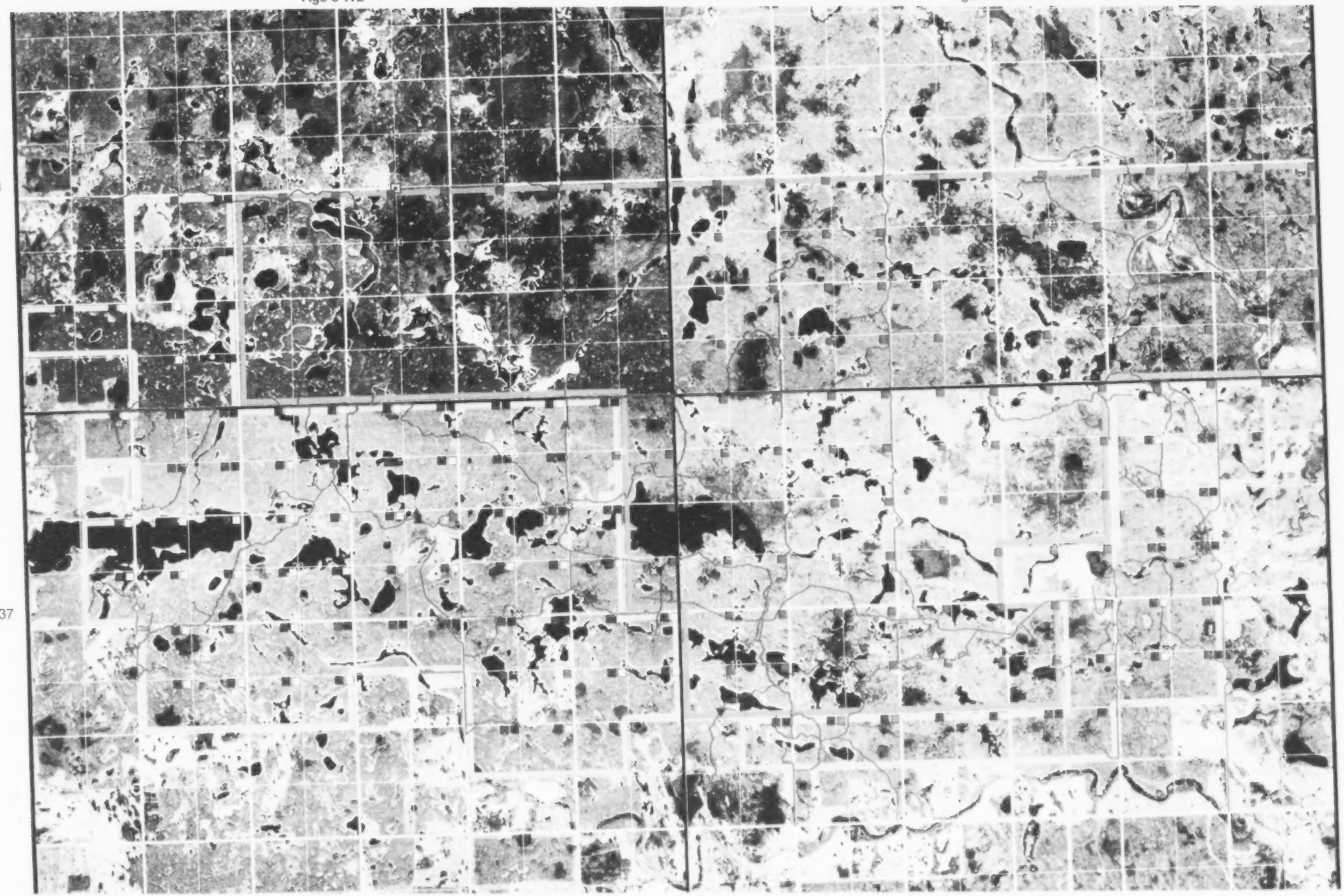
Stove Creek Project Area

Rge 9 W2

Rge 8 W2

Twp 38

Twp 37



Legend

- Abandoned Yard Site
- Archaeological Protection Area
- Beaver Dam
- Cabin - Usable
- Campsite
- Generic Point
- Homestead
- Logging Site
- Resource Protection Area
- Resource Stewardship Area
- Trail

Owner

- Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
- Privately Titled Land
- Provincial Forest
- Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food & Rural Revitalization
- Saskatchewan Environment
- Stove Creek Planning Area
- Provincial Forest

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 6

Kilometers

UTM Zone 13 Projection NAD83

Prepared by:	Geomatics Unit
Data source:	Lands Branch (March 30, 2001)
Date:	January 24, 2005

© 2006 Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan
Agriculture
and Food

Printed February 2007
ISBN 0-88656-736-1 Lands 0208
180